

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. (Currently Amended) Device [(2)] for protecting a container [(1), particularly a container made of composite material intended to contain a fluid under pressure, and] having a cylindrical side wall [(1a)] and rounded ends forming a dome [(1b) commonly known as "domes"], the device [(2) being characterized in that it comprises] comprising:

[-] a shell [(10)] made of a puncture-resistant material, shaped to envelope at least the entirety of [a] the dome [(1b)] of the container [(1)], delimiting a space between [its] an interior face of the shell and [the] an exterior face of the wall of the container [(1)]; and

[-] a compressible [material (11)] element capable of deadening a knock or impact, disposed in the [filling the entirety of the aforementioned] space.

2. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the shell [(10)] is made of a synthetic resin[, particularly of thermoplastic resin such as acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene or polycarbonate].

3. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1 [or claim 2], [characterized in that] wherein the compressible [material (11)] element [is] comprises an expanded synthetic material selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, a polyurethane and [or] polyethylene foam[, or any other expanded synthetic material].

4. (Currently Amended) Device according to [one of] claim[s] 1 [to 3], [characterized in that] wherein the device [it] is shaped to cover not only the entirety of the dome [(1b)] of the container [(1)] but also [the] a portion of the side wall [(1a)] of the container [(1)] that is adjacent to [the] a base of [this] the dome [(1b)].

5. (Currently Amended) Device according to [one of] claim[s] 1 [to 4], [characterized in that] wherein the shell [(10)] has, at [the] an end corresponding to the side wall [(1a)] of the container [(1)], a first wall [(10a)] roughly parallel to [the] an axis of the container [(1)] and, at [the] an end corresponding to [the] a top of the dome [(1b)] of the container [(1)], a second wall [(10b)] perpendicular to [this] the axis, [these two] the first and second walls [(10a, 10b)] meeting in the form of a rounded zone [(10c)].

6. (Currently Amended) Device according to [one of] claim[s] 1 [to 5, intended to equip a] wherein the container [(1) comprising] comprises a connection piece [(7)] situated at [the] a top of the dome [(1b)], [characterized in that it comprises] the device further comprising an annular projection [(12)], having [the] a height [of which is] such that [it] the annular projection extends beyond [the] a free end of [said] the connecting piece [(7)] when the device [(2)] is placed on [this] the dome [(1b)].

7. (Currently Amended) Device according to [one of] claim[s] 1, [to 6, characterized in that it] wherein the device is mounted removably on the container [(1)].

8. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 6 [7], wherein [said] the connecting piece [(7) being] is threaded at [its] the free end, [characterized in that] and [it] the device is shaped to surround [this] the connecting piece [(7)] in such a way that [the] an exterior face of the shell [(10)] is set back from the threaded free end of the connecting piece [(7), and in that it comprises], the device further comprising a tapped ring [(8)] which can be screwed onto [said] the connecting piece [(7)] and bear against [said] the shell [(10)] in order to mount the device [(2)] on the dome [(1b)].

9. (Currently Amended) Container [(1) equipped with the device (2) according to one of claims 1 to 8,] comprising:
a tank including a cylindrical side wall and rounded ends forming a dome; and
a device including a shell made of a puncture-resistant material shaped to
envelope at least the entirety of the dome delimiting a space between an interior face of
the shell and an exterior face of the wall of the container, the device further including a
compressible element disposed in the space capable of deadening a knock or impact.

10. (New) Container according to claim 9, wherein the shell is made of a synthetic resin.

11. (New) Container according to claim 9, wherein the compressible element comprises an expanded synthetic material selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyurethane and polyethylene foam.

12. (New) Container according to claim 9, wherein the shell is shaped to cover not only the entirety of the dome but also a portion of the side wall that is adjacent to a base of the dome.

13. (New) Container according to claim 9, wherein the shell has, at an end corresponding to the side wall of the tank, a first wall roughly parallel to an axis of the tank and, at an end corresponding to a top of the dome of the tank, a second wall perpendicular to the axis, the first and second walls meeting in the form of a rounded zone.

14. (New) Container according to claim 9, wherein the tank further comprises a connecting piece situated at a top of the dome and the device further comprises an annular projection having a height such that the annular projection extends beyond a free end of the connecting piece.

15. (New) Container according to claim 14, wherein the device is mounted removably on the tank.

16. (New) Container according to claim 14, wherein the connecting piece is threaded at the free end, and the device is shaped to surround the connecting piece in such a way that an exterior face of the shell is set back from the threaded free end of the connecting piece, the device further comprising a tapped ring which can be screwed onto the connecting piece and bear against the shell in order to allow mounting of the device on the dome.

17. (New) Container according to claim 10, wherein the synthetic resin is a thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene and polycarbonate.

18. (New) Device according to claim 2, wherein the synthetic resin is a thermoplastic resin.

19. (New) Container according to claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resin and polycarbonate resin.

20. (New) Container according to claim 9, wherein the container is composed of a composite material intended to contain a fluid under pressure.